

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

Published Every Morning in the Year by
THE WASHINGTON HERALD COMPANY.

Publication Office:
724 FIFTEENTH STREET NORTHWEST.

Entered as second-class matter, October 3, 1906,
at the postoffice at Washington, D. C., under act
of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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Telephone Main 3300. (Private Branch Exchange.)

Subscription Rates by Carrier or Mail.

Daily and Sunday.....\$5.00 per month
Daily and Sunday.....\$5.00 per month
Daily, without Sunday.....\$4.00 per month
Daily, without Sunday.....\$4.00 per month
Sunday, without daily.....\$2.00 per year

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All communications intended for this
newspaper, whether for the daily or the
Sunday issue, should be addressed to
THE WASHINGTON HERALD.

New York Representative, J. C. WILBERDING
SPECIAL AGENT, Brunswick Building.
Chicago Representative, BARNARD & BRAN-
HAM, Boyce Building.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1909.

The Heavy Officer's Bill.

Unique claims upon the government
promise to be made by virtue of the an-
nual physical test required of naval offi-
cers. The order, which sought to es-
tablish an annual demonstration of phys-
ical fitness in the hope of encouraging
regular exercise on the part of individ-
uals, set forth three methods by which
an officer might furnish evidence of his
ability to perform his professional duties.
He could walk, propel a bicycle, or ride
a horse, the distance in the three days
allotted for the test being rendered in
the equivalent, presumably on a scientific
basis, although there appears to be some
difference of expert opinion now regard-
ing the exactness of these relative condi-
tions.

It is interesting to know that some
officers, who have been put to unusual
expense in preparing for or in making
the test, now appear as claimants for
reimbursement in the amounts they have
disbursed. One officer, who possesses
weight which makes walking difficult
and bicycle riding perilous, chose the
horse as the means of satisfying the
official requirement of agility and endur-
ance. He was obliged to patronize a local
livery for the temporary use of an ani-
mal. He was obliged to rent a horse of
size and strength, and his preliminary
rides and the three-day test itself were
only conducted, it is understood, under
many restrictions imposed by the livery-
man. At all events, he emerged from this
physical test about \$50 out of pocket.
Another officer expended about half that
sum in a similar act of public duty.
These officers believe they should be re-
imbursed for the amounts they have ex-
pended, just as they would have refunded
to them money which they spent in per-
forming public travel under official orders.

It so happens, however, that the officers
who rode or walked in the annual phys-
ical test have not been "ordered" to that
demonstration. The adroit officials of the
Navy Department have simply "author-
ized" an officer to take a physical test
"at his convenience." This seems to be
a saving clause and is a resort to dis-
criminating phraseology which does the
naval administration infinite credit as a
contribution to public economy. The cor-
rupt naval officer, therefore, who was
obliged to draw upon his personal income
to perform a test upon the results of
which depend his continuance on the ac-
tive list, finds that he is "authorized" to
discharge an obligation, and he must
"pay the freight."

The Ideal Wife.

Now that Chicago has definitely lo-
cated the ideal husband—or, at least, the
"model" husband, which must be pretty
much the same thing—it is interesting to
learn that a Philadelphia clergyman has
undertaken to discover the ideal wife.

We suspect it would be pleasant to
know just what sort of wife an ideal
wife is, or could be, or should be. Every
man who has no wife devoutly hopes he
may have an ideal specimen when he
does acquire one, of course. Very few
men who have wives are utterly free
from a more or less haunting suspicion
that they may not be precisely ideal, in
all human probability.

But what is an ideal wife, anyway? Is
she one who never nags, and never ex-
cessively spends, and never is away from
home at the wrong time, or at home at
the wrong time? Is she one who never
bothers around the business office dur-
ing rush hours, or says disagreeable
things about your neighbor's wife—whom
you think particularly pretty, perhaps?

Is she all of these things, or some of
them, or none of them? We confess we
do not know. Tastes are so varied and
so different that the ideal of one may
be the bete noir of the other; and the
home wherein every prospect pleases to
this eye may be the home of grotesque
and unbecoming proportions to that.

The only variety of wife we can think
of who might be designated even ap-
proximately ideal, we fear, is the one
who can discover how best and most per-
suasively to manage her husband and
adapt herself to his varying moods and
temper. If she can keep him reasonably
well pleased gastronomically, soothingly
conscious of a mild mental superior-
ity, and smugly content that his business
judgment is never legitimately the tar-
get of adverse criticism justly founded,
she must, indeed, be very nearly ideal.

And this latter thought leads us to
wonder if, after all, the ideal wife is
not much more numerous than mere man
inclines to suspect generally. Doubtless
many a demure and sweetly innocent
wife in this world would smile knowingly
enough were the suggestion thrown at
her precipitately and without giving her
time to consider it at any considerable
length.

A man yelled to a woman a few yards
ahead of him the other day: "Oh, you,
kiddo. Wait for me." A stranger
promptly knocked him down. The wom-
an was the man's wife, but the judge

discharged the stranger, averring that
his act was that of a real gentleman.
This did not happen in chivalric Char-
leston or gallant Galveston. It happened
in Pittsburgh, Pa. Well?

Again Methuselah.

Having been moved to some more or
less pertinent remarks a little while ago
concerning the senselessness of so-called
"higher criticism" of the Bible, we made
specific mention of the late Methuselah,
and noted some recent scientific attempts
to revise his age downward. Attention
was called to the fact that years were
really months in earlier Biblical times,
in the philosophy of a certain investi-
gator, and that by a rational reduction
in accordance therewith, the patri-
arch's age ought to be set down as hav-
ing been a fraction over eighty, as we
reckon time nowadays, and not 953, as
is duly accredited him in the Holy Writ.

By a parallel process, the extreme long-
evity alleged in the Bible with respect
to other famous characters suffered simi-
lar revision.

Now comes a Virginia correspondent—
one who knows his Bible well, moreover,
and challenges this iconoclastic treat-
ment of Methuselah, and to good pur-
pose. If, he inquires, this wise man of
modern times is so sure that the year
of Methuselah's time was merely the
month of to-day, how happens it that
Enos became the father of Cainan at
ninety, the which reduced to modern fig-
ures would be seven and one-half years?
And that Cainan became the father of
Mahaleel at seventy, or, reduced, a
fraction less than six years? This, of
course, is the reductio ad absurdum. It
knocks downward revision of Methuselah
galley west, and we are glad of it.

The real truth of the matter is, criti-
cism of the Bible is dangerously tick-
lish business in any circumstances. It
is best that it be taken, as heretofore
suggested, just as it is, without one plea.
Our firm faith to believe is the sheet an-
chor of our hopes. We tamper with the
very foundations of our spiritual struc-
ture when we question too critically
where we may not invariably under-
stand.

After all, there was something to say
even for the old minister upon whom
the very bad boys played the question-
able joke of pasting two pages of his
Bible together in such wise that he read:
"And the rib which the Lord God had
taken from man made him a woman"—
here turning the two pasted pages and
continuing—"the breadth of fifty cubits
and the height of thirty cubits." Mo-
mentarily astounded though he may have
been, he questioned it not, but, lifting his
eyes, remarked to his congregation:
"Brethren and sisters, I do not recall
having read this before, but I direct
your attention to the fact that it justifies
the Word wherein elsewhere it is writ,
"There were giants in those days," and
that some of us are 'fearfully and won-
derfully made.'"

The Crowded Street Car.

Complaints of overcrowded street cars
during certain hours of the day appear
to be common to all cities in the United
States. The strap-hanger is everywhere,
and the aching arms and weary feet do
not grow less. The conclusion of an
official of Kansas City, after a tour of
comparative investigation, is that "when
there is a business rush, there is a street
car rush, and if there is no street car
rush it means that there is no business
rush." That is to say, congestion of
riders makes the busy hours in street
cars, as in restaurants and banks. One
trouble seems to be that the American
people are impatient. They will not wait
for an uncrowded car and they will not
walk.

The rule in Paris that no man can ride
in a filled public vehicle would be wildly
broken in an American city. Thus, a
Kansas City conductor whose car was
full did not halt for more waiting pas-
sengers; but when he stopped to let a
woman alight, an angry crowd pulled the
trolley from the wire and boarded the
car while it was being put back. The
average rider seems willing to endure be-
ing squeezed in a packed car, but resents
being left on a corner when eager to go
somewhere. If cars are run at short dis-
tances, passengers will crowd the first.
Perhaps that is because they will not be-
lieve that other cars are coming. The
remedy does not appear, and investiga-
tions seem inconclusive.

We still remain of the opinion, never-
theless and notwithstanding, that "faker,"
"liar," and "fraud" not only add nothing
to a north pole argument of any possible
value otherwise, but that they positively
operate to discredit it primarily.

The Democratic vote in Virginia was
cut down sharply this year, as was also
the Republican vote in Massachusetts.
A good many people in this country seem
to be more or less discontented, political-
ly, one way or another.

And after the flies are exterminated, as
the scientists say they must be, it is to
be hoped it will not be discovered that
the flies held in check something worse.

The per capita wealth of the United
States is \$1,318.11. Anticipating your
petulant inquiry, gentle reader, your at-
tention is called to the fact that large
sections of various per capita are en-
gaged in benevolently chasing hook-
worms down South.

More than a hundred killed in a recent
battle in Nicaragua? Those warriors
down there should be careful. If every-
body is killed in the present revolution
there will be nobody to kill in the one
next week.

The fact that Commander Perry is to
get \$120 per word for a forthcoming
magazine article probably will not occa-
sion an acute crisis in the Outlook edi-
torial sanctum, however.

The recess insuring of the anti-Cani-
nonites has been quite interesting and
not unbecomingly to see. It is what hap-
pens when Congress is in session, for all
of that, that really counts.

Mr. Taft's refusal of a particularly
appetizing little julep in Macon is said
to have grieved no little Congressman
Bartlett's faithful old colored retainer

who concocted it. Doubtless, however,
the latter interesting personage felt bet-
ter after he had disposed of it himself—
which he most undoubtedly did.

"Relations always give us a lot of
trouble, whether they are foreign or
domestic," says the Baltimore Sun. Es-
pecially poor relations, presumably.

The prompt denial from Africa was
neither short nor ugly, but it was very
welcome.

"Uncle Joe" Cannon avers that he does
not care a "hoot"—that being Latin for
something else—if he does snore in the
Pulmans. Referring "Uncle Joe" is to
be no child's play.

An astronomer claims that there is "no
moisture whatever on Mars." Evidently,
the Martian prohibitionists have a sys-
tem that beats the earthly variety be-
ginning and sufficiently.

Mr. Gaynor is going to be hard put to
it to keep the wolf from Tammany's
door during the forthcoming four years.

"Cook must act at once," says the
Jackson (Miss.) News. Well, let us hope
it is not to be in "Uncle Tom's Cabin,"
anyway.

Soda water dispensers say that the win-
ter season is now almost, if not quite,
as profitable as the summer. And yet
there remain people who do not believe
women are constantly widening their
sphere of endeavor.

A Nebraska judge has decided that a
kiss does not necessarily constitute a
proposal. His honor does not propose
that there shall be one sort of law for
the seashore and another for the in-
terior.

A man was run over by three automo-
biles down South the other day. The
only possible silver lining we see to this
cloud is that the auto bunched their hits.

"After football, what?" inquires the
Jacksonville Times-Union. A long stay
in the hospital, and even the grave, all
too frequently, said to relate.

"What will cotton do?" asks the Ra-
leigh News and Observer. Ah, the cas-
ties in Spain that would materialize if
we only knew!

"Gov. Haskell has been lambasted from
soda to hock, from string beans to hell
split, and we'll swear it begins to look
like he was about the cleanest of the
bunch," says the Oklahoma Times. Apro-
pos of certain statements heretofore
made, we advise to remark that this is one
paragraph the Oklahoma Times did not
steal from The Washington Herald.

"The press agent is again taking
mighty good care of Mr. Roosevelt,"
notes a contemporary. "Again?" Is not
"still" a better word?

Senator "Jeff" Davis says Mr. Taft is a
"four-flusher." Mr. Taft seems to have
inherited a large slice of the proverbial
"Roosevelt luck."

ANENT PUBLIC MEN.

Mr. Cannon's Decalogue.

From the Toledo Capital.

Uncle Joe can be counted on by the Harvard
professor who wishes to revise the Decalogue
downward by omitting the Third Commandment.

Mr. Aldrich's Tour.

From the Dallas News.

Undoubtedly Senator Aldrich has chosen his
sweepstake. Much of the opposition to his scheme is
in the West. Some of this opposition is due to prejudice.

Mr. Spreckels Against Graff.

From the Kansas City Star.

Rudolph Spreckels and Francis H. Graff, of San
Francisco, are planning a national organization to
fight municipal graft and political corruption. Such
an organization might accomplish great good.

Mr. Loeb as a Halter.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

That the sugar trust proposes to out-
Collector Loeb somewhat results the old allegation
as to the roguery of the estate when it
had noosed his neck so tightly as to cause discom-
fort.

The President's Return.

From the Philadelphia Press.

President Taft's return to Washington within
the week will be the signal for an onslaught upon
the National Capital. There will be an advance by an
army of office-seekers and those who seek offices for
others.

Mr. Wilson Accomplished.

From the New York Sun.

Slidly but immediately the Hon. James Wilson
climbs to the edge of reason. He is ap-
parently enumerated among "the big men of
the world" by the Hon. Josephus Daniels, one of
"the big men" of the Dismal Swamp.

Mr. Fairbanks's Sacrifice.

From the Springfield Republican.

The most important news from China rivals a
sensationalism anything that has come from Africa
in recent months. Mr. Fairbanks, while in the far
East, has sacrificed his family to the cause, his
dear to the political cartoons of his native land.

Mr. Roosevelt's Entourage.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

It is reported that the people who accompanied
Col. Roosevelt on his African hunting trip are al-
most worn out as a result of their efforts to keep
up with him. Still, they will not receive much pay.
They knew before they started what was coming to
them.

Mr. Taft on Waterways.

From the Omaha Bee.

Mr. Taft is unquestionably sound in his argument
against piecemeal appropriation. The plan for a
great waterway highway from the Gulf to the Gulf
is as much a single enterprise, regardless of im-
mediate local ambitions in any part of the valley,
as is the Panama Canal.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A REAL JOY RIDE.

The real thing in joy rides
is taken in a hack.
Its wheels bedight with ribbons white
And streamers at its back.

The real thing in joy rides
is very nice, very nice.
Your friends enthrall with ancient shoes
And shining grains of rice.

The real thing in joy rides
is truly hard to beat.
Your bonny bride sits by your side
Upon the cushioned seat.

"I have here a poem," explained the
proud author, "which I should like to
have you publish at your usual terms."

"All right," said the editor of the
Plunkville Palladium. "Ten cents a line
for one insertion, or we will run it thirty
times for \$5."

No Doubt.

"What will happen when women have
the ballot?"

"I expect there will be a big rush
among the young men to get out the
good-looking vote."

Barely Possible.

Oh, the ashraf, lately roasted,
Has acquired a wider range.
We may see this offer posted:
"Autos taken in exchange."

Fair Game.

"He has a theory that women are not
fit to be trusted with money."

"Introduce me. It ought to be easy to
stick him for the drinks."

Three Generations.

"The grandfather acquired wealth as a
dealer in seal oil and whale blubber. The
son's greatest ambition was to learn the
business."

"And the grandson?"

"He wants to forget the business."

The Dictionary Man.

"We have ascertained the composer of
this old song, but we don't know to
whom to attribute the words."

"In that case, just credit the words to
Noah Webster."

ORIGIN OF THE WELLERS.

Editor of "Dickensian" Says Sam
Was Made-up of Several Persons.

B. W. Malt, in London Daily News.

Sam Weller, like many of the characters
in the novels of Charles Dickens, is as
much a reality as any personage in his-
tory, so that new facts, however small,
concerning him are of interest to the gen-
eral public, and therefore worth record-
ing. There has been appearing in the
press during the last day or two a story
from a man possessing the name of
George Weller, living in Ramsgate, in
which he states that "it is quite true that
Dickens took the name of his famous
character from my grandfather." This is
contrary to the known and oftquoted
facts in regard to the origin and name
of the immortal Sam, and should not be
allowed to go unchallenged.

Previous commentators and authorities
have recorded the fact that the name of
Weller was suggested to the novelist by
play of a servant in the employ of the
Dickens family when residing in Ordnance
terrace, Chatham. She was, no doubt,
related to Thomas Weller, who kept the
Granny Head public house, then in the
High street there. This last fact prob-
ably suggested further the sign of Mrs.
Weller's hostelry at Dorking, the Marquis
of Granby. The transition from Tommy
Weller to Tony Weller, says Robert Lang-
ton in his book, "The Childhood and
Youth of Dickens," is not a very violent
one, and the origin of this celebrated
character is obvious enough. Many a
character and scene in Dickens' early
writings were the outcome of the novel-
ist's early association with Chatham life.

If Dickens modeled his character of Sam
upon any one it was on the imaginary
Simon Spatterdash, a character in the
farce entitled "The Boarding House."
Play of the first time at the Lyceum
Theater on August 27, 1841, again in 1852,
and which was very popular from 1850-56
at the Surrey and other playhouses. Sam
Weller was introduced into "The Pick-
wick Papers" by the name of Simon Spatterdash.
Weller was continually uttering what have
since become known as "Wellerisms," and
a selection of them will be found in a pam-
phlet entitled "The Origin of Sam Wel-
ler," which booklet also gives a full his-
tory of the subject. The original imper-
sonator of Simon was Samuel Vale, and
here again is another suggestion for
Sam Weller's name. Sam Vale—Sam
Vale—Sam Weller. Convert the "V" into
"W" and there you are, Sam Weller.
Weller himself would have put it—Sam
Weller.

But there is some confusion about the
Ramsgate George Weller's story. He
says: "That is, that is, Dickens and his
grandfather knew each other, and were
on friendly terms during the time Dick-
ens lived at Broadstairs, and you may re-
member that the novelist took the title
of his works, 'Bleak House,' from a
well-known fishing spot there."

Now, Dickens first went to Broadstairs
for a summer holiday in 1837, and there
put the finishing touches to "The Pick-
wick Papers," in his lodgings in the High
street there. So, if we agree that Dick-
ens met the Ramsgate George Weller on
his first visit to Broadstairs, George Wel-
ler's statement is a little confusing, since
Sam Weller had been created at least a
year previously. George Weller's state-
ment about "Bleak House" is also in-
correct, for Dickens did not take the
name of his book "from a well-known
residence there." The "well-known resi-
dence" of that name at Broadstairs was
"Fort House" in Dickens' time, and was
then his own house. Some time after he
left it the new tenant renamed it "Bleak
House," as a compliment to the novelist
who had just commenced his new serial
story.

There is one other fact which the Black
House of the story, as a matter of fact, was
located at St. Albans, and not a line of
the novel was even written at Broad-
stairs.

Agreed with the Court.

From the Dundee Advertiser.

A lawyer came into court drunk, when
the judge said to him:
"Sir, I am sorry to see you in a situa-
tion which is a disgrace to yourself and
family, and the profession to which you
belong."

This reproof elicited the following col-
loquy:
"Did your honor speak to me?"

"I did, sir, I said, sir, that, in my
opinion, you disgraced yourself and fam-
ily, and the profession by the way."

"May I—I please your honor, I have
been an attorney in—in—in this court
for fifteen years, and permit me to say,
your honor, that this is the first correct
opinion I ever knew you to give."

Very True.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

"Did you have any thrilling adven-
tures while you were mountain climbing
in Switzerland?"

"No, it wasn't half as difficult or excit-
ing as crossing one of Chicago's torn-up
streets."

Another Reason.

From the Kansas City Times.

"He called his jug of whisky a bird-
cage, because it had many swallows in it."

"Yes, and also it gives him bats in his
belly."

PEOPLE AND THINGS

The Rattle of Cities.

The real population of a city is not
necessarily the number of people within
its political boundaries. It is in reality
composed of those dependent upon the
central community. In this sense New
York City would be considered as in-
cluding Jersey City, Hoboken, and New-
ark. The rule of this method of calcu-
lation is to include all contiguous areas
having 10,000 or more inhabitants to the
square mile. This would place the popu-
lation of New York at 4,232,000, of Chi-
cago at 1,738,000, Philadelphia 1,273,000,
Boston 756,000. That of London in 1905
would be 5,581,000. It is calculated that
New York is growing at twice the rate of
London, which it will overtake in popu-
lation, if the rate is maintained,
within twenty years. But this method
requires care in application, which would
be almost sure of dispute in rival cities.
Thus the influence of a metropolis may
extend beyond State lines, as New York
and Philadelphia may be said figuratively
to meet in New Jersey.

Nashville's Home Exhibit.

Nashville has been having an exhibit
of home-made products. One industry
that is exploited is the manufacture of
shoes, and citizens are encouraged to
patronize the local industry in order to
increase employment. It is urged that
the citizens should spend their money at
home. But Nashville is not isolated, and
its business with the outer world keeps
on growing. The deeper significance of
the movement seems to be an ambition
to encourage manufacturing industries of
a more diversified nature. The co-opera-
tion of the region roundabout, whose peo-
ple buy and sell in Nashville, might pro-
mote the desired result.

Atlanta's Bond Issue.

Atlanta is to vote upon the question of
a bond issue, and a committee of citizens
is holding meetings in every ward. The
money is needed for extending the water
and sewer systems. The statement is
made that these need improvement in
order to promote immunity from possible
epidemic in the hot weather. A bond
issue of \$2,000,000 is desired for these pur-
poses, and the citizens are urged to vote
for it. A wonder grows year by year
that so many of the birds survive to
come back to the April fairs.

One species of plover makes the yearly
journey from Alaska to Patagonia. Some
of the warblers, too, migrate. They are
the truest of the birds, travel by night
stages from Canada to the interior
of Mexico. The winter homes of nearly
all of our birds have been located, but
the autumn yet knows the gathering of
the great hosts of chimney swifts, er-
roneously but generally called chimney
swallows. The swifts leave and they come
back, and beyond this science
knows little or nothing. These families
of birds of summer have held their secret
through the ages and have added their
own puzzle to the general mystery of the
migration.

WOMEN IN CATO'S DAY.

No Easy Job for Ancient Bays to De-
feat Organized Roman Matrons.

From the Outlook.

Among other interesting phases of Ro-
man life, which Prof. Abbott (in his
"Society and Politics in Ancient Rome")
presents at close range, is the position
of women in public affairs. Englishmen
may be consoled by the knowledge that
the Romans had their women, 2,000 years
ago, and that the suffragette is not a
modern monstrosity. After the battle of
Cannae, when Rome had to call out the
last reserve resources, a law was passed
forbidding any woman to wear a particu-
larly gorgeous garment, or to be present
except for religious purposes. Later, when
property had returned and the Roman
women very naturally wished to resume
their